

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/GB 03/03203

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A01C11/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A01C A01G

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 557 881 A (BOULDIN FLOYD ET AL) 24 September 1996 (1996-09-24) abstract column 1, line 14 - line 23 column 2, line 61 - line 66 column 3, line 21 - line 35 column 7, line 49 - line 67 column 8, line 1 - line 67 column 9, line 1 - line 67 column 10, line 1 - line 60 claims; figures	1-16, 22-25, 29,38, 40,42, 44-46
Y	----- -/--	17-21,32

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

18 March 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

19 JULI 2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 898 866 A (CIRCLE TEKKO CO LTD) 3 March 1999 (1999-03-03) abstract	1,22,32
Y	column 4, paragraph 17 - paragraph 20 column 5, paragraph 22 - paragraph 30 column 6, paragraph 31 - paragraph 34 -----	17-21,32
E	GB 2 387 757 A (ULTRACELL LTD) 29 October 2003 (2003-10-29) abstract page 3, line 19 - line 29 page 4, line 1 - line 29 page 5, line 1 - line 30 page 6, line 1 - line 30 page 7, line 1 - line 16 claims; figures -----	1-5,7, 12-14, 16-32, 38-40, 42,44-46
X	EP 0 323 674 A (VISSER S GRAVENDEEL HOLDING) 12 July 1989 (1989-07-12) abstract column 2, line 24 - line 55 column 3, line 1 - line 58 column 4, line 1 - line 58 column 5, line 1 - line 57 column 6, line 15 - line 43 claims; figures -----	1-8,10, 11,22, 32,38, 40,45,46
A	US 1 865 123 A (LUIGI MARANGONI) 28 June 1932 (1932-06-28) -----	

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-32, 38-46

Remark on Protest

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-32, 38-46

Apparatus and method therefor, for planting plants from a propagation tray, located by locating means, with extracting means to pull out a plant from the propagation tray, and transporting it to a delivery means arranged to deliver the plant to the ground.

2. claims: 33-36

A planter assembly comprising a delivery belt arranged to convey vertically an extracted plant, said belt comprising two endless belts which are able to grip the foliage part of the extracted plant between them.

3. claim: 37

An automated planter adapted to remove a row of plants from a propagation tray and transport them to a delivery means comprising first and second conveyors arranged to deliver sequentially the row of plants to the ground.

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